



The newsletter of INNOVAFUN

Under the EUROPA INNOVA Standards Network



Welcome to our newsletter!

Dear readers, welcome to our first issue! The aim of this first edition is to give you information about our past and future activities as well as project achievements.

WHAT IS INNOVAFUN?

INNOVAFUN is one of the six Europe INNOVA Standards Networks that intend to demonstrate how standards can contribute to and promote the development of innovative products and services in Europe. INNOVAFUN is a project that aims to stimulate the adoption of the ISO 10303-236 "funStep" standard among all the stakeholders especially in the furniture value chain.

INNOVAFUN aims to:

- Facilitate SMEs' integration and adoption of the funStep™ standard based solutions.



- Enable businesses in the furniture industry value chain to improve their performance and become more effective and competitive.

Through:

- Identification and evaluation of common business process requirements.

- Innovative solutions, facilitating the integration of the funStep™ standard into the design of new business practices and services in the furniture industry sector.

- Providing practical guidance for implementation of standard-based business practices.

WHY A STANDARD IS NEEDED?

The furniture sector is a very complex industry as far as data sharing, process methodologies and business processes between organisations across the value chain are concerned.

The European furniture market is strongly fragmented. The small and medium sized enterprises are using a wide range of information systems, which means a great expenditure of money.

The small and medium sized enterprises in the

different segments of the furniture sector have a real need of applying new Internet-based methods in order to ensure a smoother and more efficient way of working. Providers, suppliers, manufacturers and retailers are all engaged in many specific operations and parallel businesses and therefore have a great need of being integrated and of finding an effective channel of communication across the whole network. The key issue is to have flexible, interoperable envi-

ronments to better handle their daily business management (orders, invoices, human resources, logistics, catalogues, etc.).

The ISO 10303-236 funStep standard is the solution to this problem and also a way to open new opportunities for SMEs to initiate and get involved in the economic and technological innovation processes across the European and global furniture industry.

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INNOVAFUN PROJECT PARTNERS

AIDIMA Asociación de Investigación y Desarrollo en la Industria del Mueble y Afines (Spain)

UNINOVA Instituto de Desenvolvimento de Novas Tecnologias (Portugal)

DESIGNMARKET Design Market Europe AB (Sweden)

FEDERMobili Federmobili Società di Servizi SRL (Italy)

UEA Unión Européene de l'Ameublement (Belgium)

UHP University Henri Poincaré Nancy I (France)

FIRA International Ltd (United Kingdom)

FCVRE Fundación Comunidad Valenciana Región Europea (Spain)





INNOVAFUN at the COSMU Congress in Valencia, Spain



The 22nd of November 2007, AIDIMA organised in Valencia the IX Edition

of COSMU, the Habitat International Congress, where all advantages of using and adopting the ISO 10303-236 "funStep" Standard were presented to a Wide audience. About 60 furniture industry related companies attended the session entitled "Applying Information Technologies in the Furniture Industry" where Mrs. María José Nuñez (INNOVAFUN Project Manager) made a presentation on specific IT applica-

tions that are able to address the new furniture consumption requirements over the next 10 years. Mr. Fredrik Larsson from DESINGMARKET.COM spoke about the new ISO "funSTEP" based working modalities between furniture companies and Mr. Mino Polito from FEDERMOBILI described the experiences of Italian companies in using innovative business processes for data Exchange between companies in the furniture sector.

ACTIONS TAKEN

In order to provide the Furniture Industry with complete awareness of the advantages of integrating "funStep" Standard-based solutions to their existing processes, the INNOVAFUN team has concentrated during the Project's first year in outreach actions. Such as organising workshops, forums, training courses, general meetings and conferences and also publishing individual articles in different newsletters. The Project has already arranged 10 informative days, 21 training sessions, 6 technical workshops, 3 conferences and one training course. Examples of the activities that

the Project partners have organised include:

- **AIDIMA:** (Asociación de Investigación y Desarrollo en la Industria del Mueble y Afines, Spain) is implementing the Standard with one of the biggest Spanish retailers (El Corte Inglés) and 20 furniture manufactures, including 3 different software houses.

- **DESIGNMARKET:** (Design Market Europe AB, Sweden) in February 2007 held an interesting workshop with Electrolux and two kitchen drawing programmers developers (Planit Sweden and Configura). Other

companies, such as Matrix and Bytebrigade are also starting to implement the "funStep" Standard.

- **FEDERMOBILI:** (Federmobili Società di Servizi SRL, Italy) is currently creating a database Developer according to the "funStep" Standard (AP236) that contains manufactures catalogues, product data and price lists. This will give the retail shops the possibility of importing catalogue data automatically in order to provide estimate of costs and related products configuration, 2D and 3D designing and orders.

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INNOVAFUN is supported by the European Commission under the Europe INNOVA initiative.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **FIRA:** Forum /information day in 2008 (UK)

- **AIDIMA/UNIVOVA/ UHP:** Expert workshop 2008 (Sun City, RSA)

- **UNINOVA:** Expert workshop/technical workshop/training course/conference

June 2008 (Caparica, Portugal)

- **UEA:** World Furniture Congress in July 2008, Brazil

- **UNINOVA:** Training course in virtual classroom in 2008.

- **AIDIMA/UEA/UNINOVA/FCVRE:** 29 May, 2008. standards, Workshop on standards, innovative business and new markets: experiences from practice. Brussels.





CONFERENCE at the International furniture fair of MILAN



Last April 18th FEDERMOBILI organised a conference during the International Furniture Fair of Milan with the objective of presenting a project involving the Italian furniture value chain.

The project intends to facilitate all actors operating

among the furniture value chain to better communicate through the use of Internet.

In particular the aim is to create a marketplace B2B, based in the funStep standard ISO AP236, in order to offer the distribution the possibility of importing catalogues data, formulate cost estimates and products configuration, 2D and 3D designing.

Different speakers showed their viewpoints to the 102 attendees between retailers, software houses and manu-

factures.

The round table was composed by Mauro Galliano from Galliano Habitat, Christian Bosco from Arrendament Traiano and Massimo Minguzzi from Idrolab participated in the round table together with some software houses representatives such as Marco Montino from GP Channel and Giorgio Andreani from Computer Office. Also Maria José Núñez participated in the round table moderated by Mino Politi from FEDERMOBILI.

WORKSHOP ON STANDARDS, INNOVATIVE BUSINESS AND NEW MARKETS: EXPERIENCES FROM PRACTICE. BRUSSELS MAY 29th

The INNOVAFUN network organises a workshop in Brussels on May 29th 2008 under the title "Standards, Innovative Business and New Markets: Experiences from practice".

The workshop intends to show the experience inside INNOVAFUN as far as the use of standards is concerned, together with other experiences on the topic, and also give the attendants the opportunity to offer their viewpoint on possible synergies and future collaboration with other experts, as well as share knowledge and ideas in the NETWORKING SESSION. The workshop, with an interesting agenda, aims to be a forum for presentation, reflexion and discussion on the present and emerging European opportunities in support for innovation. The agenda is

downloadable from <http://standards.eu-innova.org/Pages/Eventdetail.aspx?id=51>.

INNOVAFUN has the funStep Interest Group—FSIG—with more than 700 members, as its basis. All funSteps services are around the ISO 10303-236, an ISO standard for catalogue data exchanged in furniture sector. The interest group represents the support of hundreds of SMEs that will become part of a consolidate network that uses standards as a tool for innovative business solutions.

INNOVAFUN leads SMEs to a better position in the competitive global market by promoting the use of existing standards, standard based business practices and service solutions in the furniture industry sector.

For this Workshop, both industry experts in standards as a way of communication and experts in product development are invited.

The Workshop will take place at DG REGIO, ROOM CSSM2 09/146-60P in Avenue Tervuren, 41-1040 Brussels on May 29th, starting at 9:30 a.m. There is no admission fee, but attendance must be confirmed by sending an email to mvi-dal@delcomval.be.

The Workshop will count with the participation, among others, of Mr. Reinhard Büscher from DG. Enterprise and Mr. John Ketchell from CEN/ISSS and Mr. José Caldeira from the Manufacture High Level Group.

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